



Facts About... The Bay- Delta

Area of the Watershed: The system drains more than 61,000 square miles, or 37 % of the state.

Area of the Delta: 738,000 acres.

Delta Inflow*: Inflow ranges from 6 to 69 MAF per year; average is 24 MAF.**

Diversions: Over 7,000 diverters draw water from the system.

Delta Exports*: The State Water Project and Central Valley Project draw an average of 5.9 MAF each year.

In-Delta Water Use: Net averages approximately 1 MAF annually.

Flora: Over 400 plant species, not including agricultural crops.

Fauna: 225 birds, 52 mammals, and 22 reptile and amphibian species.

Fish: 130 fish species.

Marshes: There are 8,000 acres of tidal marsh in the Delta (originally there were 345,000 acres).

Levees and Channels: Over 700 miles of waterways are protected by 1,100 miles of levees.

Subsidence: Some Delta lands are more than 20 feet below sea level.

Delta Farmland: Over 52,000 acres are farmed.

Principal Crops: The most commonly grown Delta crops are wheat, alfalfa, corn and tomatoes.

Agriculture Value: Average annual gross value of Delta production is \$500 million.

Recreation: About 12 million people per year enjoy camping, hiking, sightseeing, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, waterskiing, fishing, etc.

* Simulated flow is based on historical hydrology, but with existing storage and conveyance facilities in place and operating to meet 1995 levels of demand.

** MAF are million acre feet.



[Return to Fact Sheets](#)
